



Corran Ferry Stakeholder Group

Buidheann Luchd-
ùidh Aiseag a'
Chorrain



Notes/Actions Nòtaichean/Gnìomhan

No:	Meeting Number – 01
Date:	27 January 2026
Time:	6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Via:	MS Teams

Attendees	Init	Details
Paul Reid (Acting Chair)	PR	THC - Chief Officer Facilities and Fleet Management
Richard Porteous	RP	THC - Operations Manager Corran Ferry
Councillor Andrew Baxter	AB	Ward: 21 Fort William-Ardnamurchan
Councillor Kate Willis	KW	Ward: 21 Fort William-Ardnamurchan
Councillor John Grafton	JG	Ward: 11 Caol and Mallaig
Councillor Liz Saggars	LS	Ward: 11 Caol and Mallaig
Andrew Cameron	AC	Acharacle CC
Dr Michael Foxley	MF	Ardgour CC
Tricia Kennedy	TK	Ardgour CC
Tom Frazier	TF	Morvern CC
Jackie Millar-Craig	JMC	Sunart CC
Gill Calver	GC	West Ardnamurchan CC
Apologies	Init	Details
Councillor Ken Gowans	KG	Senior Strategic Chair
Councillor Thomas MacLennan (Chair)	TM	Ward: 21 Fort William-Ardnamurchan
Councillor Matthew Prosser	MP	Ward: 21 Fort William-Ardnamurchan
Councillor Sammy Cameron	SC	Ward: 11 Caol and Mallaig
Henriette Laidlaw	HL	Morvern CC
Pamela Burns	PB	THC - Corporate Communications

Item	Notes/Actions
1	Review of Previous - Notes / Actions (Steering Group 08 December 2025) – Approved. RP confirmed that the Naval Architects report regarding the Maid of Glencoul's ramps was shared with the group prior to the meeting. AB asked about the reasons the group were asked not to share the documents more widely. PR explained that following discussion with Corporate Comms (i.e. no reason other than aiming to follow correct procedure).

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	RP confirmed that the information regarding the Refit Dates and UK Passenger Ship Safety Certificate Renewal Dates/MCA was shared with the group following the last meeting. AC commented that his business had experience of various vehicles having problems with the MV Corran's ramps, and less so with the Maid over the years. AB was concerned that RP suggested that driver behaviour (e.g. speed) contributed to vehicles being damaged by the Maid of Glencoul's ramps. RP referenced to the Naval Architects report which explains various contributing factors. MF commented he has used the Maid of Glencoul for many years since she arrived at Ardgour and now prefers to use his Land Rover when using the Maid. GC commented that despite driving with speed she has had no problem with the Maid's ramps in the past also having used it over a similar time period. RP clarified the claims procedure was via the Corran Ferry office email address: CorranFerry.Office@highland.gov.uk
2	Terms of Reference PR proposed that the Corran Ferry Stakeholder Group Terms of Reference, which were circulated prior to the meeting, be adopted and this was agreed.
3	Service Outage Strategy/Contingency Plan PR proposed that the Service Outage Strategy, which was circulated prior to the meeting (and recently implemented during the service outage experienced just before Christmas) be adopted, and this was agreed with the amendment that the Shuttle Bus be provided on the A82, Corran – Fort William (rather than the A861, Ardgour – Camusnagaul).
4	The Maid of Glencoul The recent breakdown of the Maid of Glencoul between 16 – 19 December 2026 was discussed. RP/PR praised the role played by our crew in expediting the repair, particularly as the supplier's engineers could not attend the site immediately due to the time of year. This issue in relation to engineers attendance/training of in-house engineers/holding of spare parts, etc was discussed, including contributions from AC, PR, RP. RP confirmed we hold an array of parts and recommended spares, also our passenger certificate renewal largely requires parts to be supplied, and repairs carried out by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM). AC asked if we could have spare equipment to swap in while another unit was being serviced. RP confirmed we do that where possible/affordable, although it is cost-prohibitive to own large items such a spare engine or prop unit. We share with CalMac where possible, and one of the main drivers for being part of their Small Vessel Replacement Programme for our new electric ferry (CFNEV) is Standardisation of vessel design, equipment, systems, etc so that we get those efficiencies and economies of scale in future.

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	RP confirmed that the Maid of Glencoul's annual refit commences at the beginning of March (her passenger certificate expires 08 March 2026), and planning for the refit includes the Naval Architect review for possible improvements to the Maid's vehicle ramps. TF asked what would happen if the MV Corran was not back from refit by that date. RP explained that all efforts are going into getting the MV Corran back in time. However, if required we would approach the MCA for a temporary extension to the Maid's passenger certificate (PSSC). As explained, that is never a good situation, including because the other annual renewal anniversary dates onboard coincide with the PSSC (e.g. safety equipment, firefighting equipment, etc), and all of these would require inspection/extension also.
5	MV Corran Weekly Corran Ferry Stakeholder Updates continue (except for this week due to Lochaber Committee and this Stakeholder Group meeting). RP updated the group. In terms of the shipyard the MV Corran's refit has gone well and is virtually complete. The delay is an OEM delay caused by the lead-time for parts required by the OEM overhauling our forward prop unit. We are continuously working closely with the OEM to expedite the repair and keep the vessel on track for return in February.
6	Dry-dock Scheduling & Passenger Certificate Dates MF asked for further clarification on why the passenger certificate renewal dates are so rigid. Action 1 – PR agreed that this will be supplied in writing.
7	Mòrag Bheag (flit boat/crew transfer launch) PR reported that the new flit boat is nearing completion for delivery by March.
8	Corran Ferry History Project RP confirmed that as we look to the future transition to the new infrastructure (CFIIS) and electric ferry (CFNEV) Highlife Highland colleagues are planning to: • Make Oral History recordings with contributors associated with the ferry over the years. • Take old Corran Ferry records and photographs into safekeeping at the Lochaber Archive. Anyone who wishes to be involved with the Oral History recordings or has any photographs, etc that they wish to share to please get in touch.
9	Ticketing RP confirmed that the mTicket project, to modernise ticket sales for passengers, taking tickets sales online and replacing the paper ticket books is progressing well. We have clarified our requirements and await supplier quotes, working closely with council

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	colleagues in Digital Improvement and Procurement teams. Planning appropriate Engagement with stakeholders is currently a key objective. AB asked that stakeholders be given a timeline for progress/implementation of the project. Action 2 – RP agreed to provide this. GC commented that smart ticketing was mentioned as arriving soon back in 2019.
10	Winter Weather It was noted that the ferry is off today due to high winds (storm Chandra). PR praised the actions of the crew regarding winter weather over recent months, including the recent snow that lay down to loch level. This was seconded by those present.
11	Lochaber Area Committee Report/ Corran Ferry Project Update RP confirmed that a quarterly Corran Ferry Update report is taken to each Lochaber Area Committee (LAC). The latest report from the 26 January 2026 LAC can be found on the Highland Council website, and includes the latest updates about the Corran Ferry Infrastructure Improvement Scheme (CFIIS) and the Corran Ferry New Electric Vessel (CFNEV).
12	AOB AB asked why we did not have a Dangerous Goods certificate for the Maid, and what were we doing about it. RP explained that it was affected due to last refit works regarding the new Safety Standards (“Grandfather Rights”) legislation, and it is planned to address this at the upcoming refit. Action 3 – AB asked for this confirmation to be provided in writing. PR agreed. AC asked if the group could be provided with a copy of the inspection report regarding the planning of the works done to the stool on the Mid of Glencoul’s ramps at last refit. Action 4 – PR agreed to review and respond in writing. MF asked that the A861 road around the loch be prioritised for funding this year. Action 5 – PR and AB agreed to pass this request on to the Area Roads Team. GC commented that two ferries were often used in the past when the A82 or other trunk roads were blocked, allowing diversions to be put in place, so not just an advantage to those living on the peninsula side of the narrows.
13	Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 12 May 2026 (the day after the next Lochaber Area Committee).